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MEGA MAN

ISSUE 18

Archie COMICS
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MEGA-ACTION! MEGA-ADVENTURE! MEGA-FUN!

MEGA MAN

ISSUE 18

PROTO MAN VARIANT

CAPCOM

Archie COMICS

PROTO MAN:
LOST SON OF LIGHT

PROTO-STRIKE!

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IN THE YEAR 200X, A SUPER ROBOT NAMED MEGA MAN WAS CREATED BY DR LIGHT TO STOP THE EVIL DESIRES OF DR.WILY. MEGA MAN NOW FIGHTS ALONGSIDE HIS FELLOW ROBOT MASTERS TO DEFEAT THE FORCES OF EVIL!

MEGA MAN™

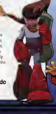
PREVIOUSLY...

When Dr Light first unveiled his series of **ROBOT MASTERS** he hoped to push the boundaries of advanced robotics and create a race of beings that would work to build a better world. Little did he know the corrupt Dr Wily would use Light's technology to unleash terror upon the very people they were meant to help and protect. That's when a helpful lab assistant robot named Rock volunteered to become a hero of the defenseless and a challenger of evil. A super fighting robot named **MEGA MAN!**

The recent tragedy at the the Advanced Robotics Trade Show sparked Dr Light to finally tell Rock the truth about the robot named Blues. Dr Light revealed that Blues was the proto-type of a series of advanced fighting robots that he was contracted to build for the military. This series would eventually become the "Robot Masters," but Light counted the first robot as his "son." When a training accident nearly destroyed Blues, Light resolved to repair the young robot's inner mechanisms. Distraught over being referred to as simply a "flawed" machine that needed "fixing," Blues left home and Dr Light's regret over that loss seems to haunt him to this day.

Meanwhile, Dr Wily has now, unbeknownst to Mega Man, retreated to the Amazon Jungle where a mysterious new presence called "Ra Moon" has made itself known to the evil genius. Wily has channeled this strange power into building an army of robot masters, that is, until none-other-than Blues emerged from the jungle! Now dubbed "Break Man," Blues has seemingly become Wily's newest weapon against Dr Light and the forces of good.

But the question remains: what lead Blues to the Amazon **and what is he prepared to do in the name of revenge...**



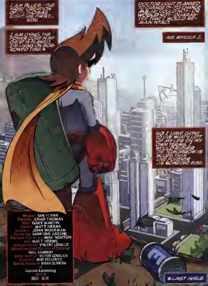
CHARACTER SELECT

BLUES
DR. LIGHT
DR. WILY
GUTS MAN

[illegible]

PROTO-TYPE

PART TWO: THE LONELY ROAD


I AM BLUES--THE FIRST CREATION OF [illegible] THOMAS L[illegible] HIS FIRST... SON.
I AM DYING. THE POWER CORE IN MY CHEST IS FLAWED. I'M LIVING ON BORROWED TIME.*
DOCTOR LIGHT PLANNED TO CHANGE IT--TO CHANGE **ME**. HE COULD NOT--OR **WOULD** NOT--GUARANTEE THAT I WOULD REMAIN INTACT.
ME. MYSELF. I.
SO I HAVE GONE TO LIVE WHAT'S LEFT OF MY LIFE ON MY OWN TERMS. I WOULD RATHER DIE TOMORROW AS BLUES THAN LIVE FOREVER AS SOMEONE ELSE.
*LAST ISSUE.

Writer IAN FLYNN
Pencils CHAD THOMAS
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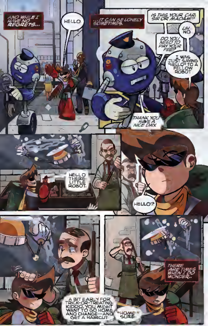
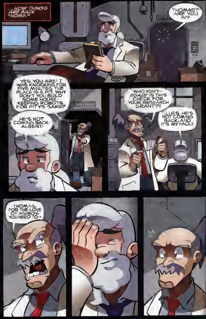
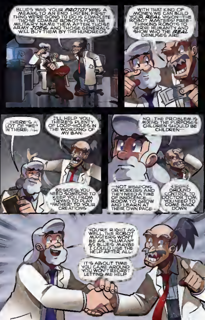
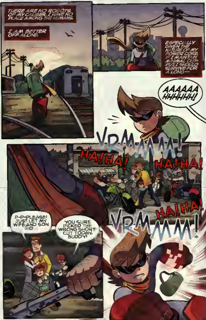
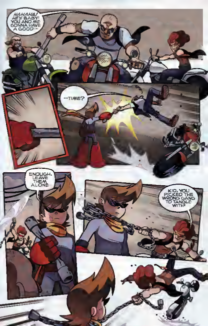
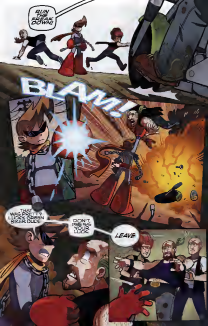

AND WHILE I HAVE NO REGRETS...
HELLO.
...IT CAN BE LONELY SOMETIMES.
IS THIS YOUR CAR, SIR OR MADAM?
UH, NO.
DO YOU NEED TO PAY YOUR FEE?
I WAS JUST SAYING "HELLO" TO A FELLOW ROBOT.
THANK YOU. HAVE A NICE DAY.
HELLO THERE, LITTLE ROBOT.
HELLO?
A BIT EARLY FOR TRICK-OR-TREATING, KIDDO. YOU MIGHT WANT TO GO HOME AND CHANGE--AND GET A HAIRCUT.
"HOME." SURE.
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I DO WONDER..

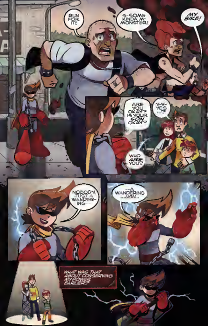

...HOW THINGS ARE BACK "HOME."
THOMAS?! ARE YOU IN?
YES, YOU ARE! I WAS KNOCKING FOR FIVE MINUTES. THE PLACE IS A PIT. WHY DON'T YOU BUILD SOME HOUSE-KEEPING ROBOTS FOR PITY'S SAKE?
HE'S NOT COMING BACK, ALBERT.
WHO ISN'T-- EGAD! IS THIS CHECK FOR YOUR RESEARCH GRANT?!
BLUES. HE'S NOT COMING BACK, AND IT'S MY FAULT.
THOMAS, FOR THE LOVE OF ASIMOV, YOU NEED TO--

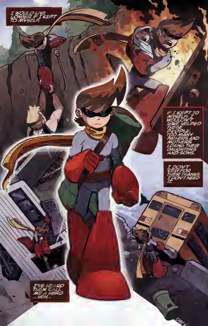

BLUES WAS YOUR *PROTOTYPE*, A MEANS TO AN END. LISTEN, FIRST THING WE'RE GOING TO DO IS COMPLETE THOSE COMBAT ROBOTS FOR THE MILITARY. NAME THEM AFTER THOSE ARMY *JOES*, AND THOSE GENERALS WILL BUY THEM BY THE HUNDREDS.
WITH THAT KIND OF MONEY, WE CAN BUILD YOUR *REAL* VISION—THE ROBOT MASTERS! FREE-THINKING ROBOTS TO SERVE HUMANITY AND SHOW WHO THE *REAL* GENIUSES ARE.
...THERE'S A LOT OF "WE" IN THERE, AL.
I'LL HELP YOU. THERE'S PLENTY OF LOOP-HOLES IN THE WORDING OF MY BAN.
BESIDES, YOU NEED SOMEONE TO KEEP YOU FROM TRYING TO PLAY "FATHER" TO YOUR CREATIONS.
NO. THE PROBLEM IS MIXING THE PURPOSES. CHILDREN SHOULD BE CHILDREN—
—NOT WEAPONS OR WORKERS, AND THEY NEED A TIME OF INNOCENCE. ROOM TO GROW AND LEARN AT THEIR OWN PACE—
GROUND CONTROL TO DOCTOR TOM. YOU NEED TO COME BACK DOWN.
YOU'RE RIGHT AS WELL. THE ROBOT MASTERS WON'T BE AS... "HUMAN" AS BLUES. MAYBE I COULD USE THE HELP AFTER ALL.
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU CAME AROUND. YOU WON'T REGRET LETTING ME HELP.

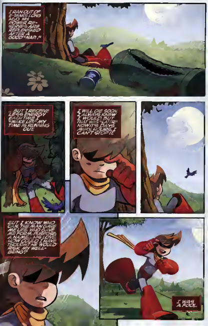

THERE ARE NO ROBOTS OF MY CALIBER. I HAVE NO PLACE AMONG THE HUMANS.
I AM BETTER OFF ALONE.
ESPECIALLY GIVEN THE NATURE OF MY POWER CORE. IF I MAINTAIN MINIMAL OUTPUT, I SHOULD SURVIVE FOR A LONG--
AAAAAAHHHHHH!
VRMMMM!
HA!HA!
HA!HA!
HA!HA!
P-P-PLEASE! JUST LET MY WIFE AND SON GO
YOU SURE PICKED THE WRONG SHORT CUT TODAY, BUDDY!
VRMMMM!

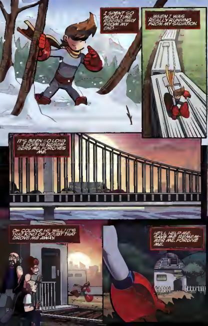

HAHAHA! HEY, BABY! YOU AND ME GONNA HAVE A GOOD--
--TIME?
ENOUGH. LEAVE THEM ALONE.
KID, YOU PICKED THE WRONG GANG TO TANGLE WITH!

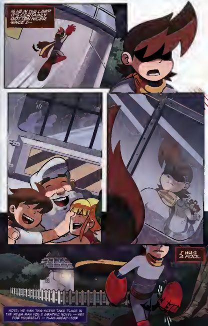

RUN THE FREAK DOWN!
BLAM!
THAT WAS PRETTY LUCKY, GREEN BIKER DUDE.
DON'T PRESS YOUR LUCK.
LEAVE.

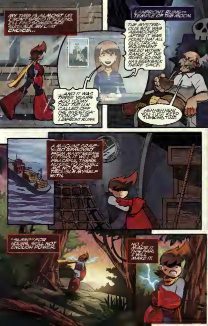

RUN FOR IT!
S-SOME KINDA M-MONSTER!
MY BIKE!
ARE YOU OKAY? IS YOUR SON OKAY?
Y-Y-YES ...?
WHO ARE YOU?
NOBODY. JUST A WANDER-ING--
--A WANDERING ...UGH...
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT CONSERVING MY POWER EARLIER?

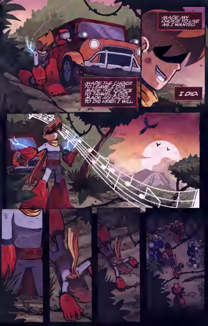

I WOULD LIVE LONGER IF I KEPT TO MYSELF.
IF I KEPT TO MYSELF, I WOULDN'T HAVE HELPED THESE PEOPLE. TOO MANY FATHERS AND MOTHERS LOSING THEIR DAUGHTERS AND SONS.
I DON'T STAY FOR THEIR THANKS. I DON'T NEED IT.
I'VE HEARD THEM CALL ME A HERO ...HEH...

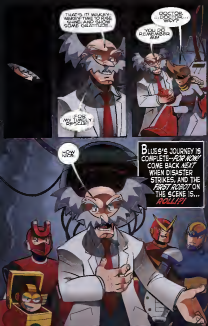

I RAN OUT OF E-TANKS LONG AGO MY POWER RESERVES ARE REPLENISHED AFTER A GOOD "NAP."
...BUT I RECEIVE LESS ENERGY EACH TIME I "WAKE UP." MY TIME IS RUNNING OUT.
I WILL DIE SOON. I ALWAYS KNEW I WOULD, BUT THAT WAS "LATER." NOW IT'S DAYS AWAY. HOURS. I CAN'T STOP IT.
BUT I KNOW WHO CAN. THE MAN GAVE ME LIFE. WHO GAVE ME FORM, PURPOSE, A NAME... HIS LOVE. HOW COULD I HAVE THOUGHT HE WOULD RISK MY WELL-BEING?
I WAS A FOOL.

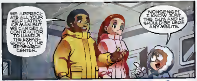

I SPENT SO MUCH TIME RUNNING AWAY FROM MY END...
...WHEN I WAS REALLY RUNNING FROM MY SALVATION.
IT'S BEEN SO LONG ...I HOPE HE REMEMBERS ME. FORGIVES ME.
OF COURSE HE WILL! IT'S THAT KIND OF DOUBT THAT DROVE ME AWAY.
HE'LL HELP ME. SAVE ME REMEMBER ME. FORGIVE ME.


IS HE IN THE LAB? IT'S CERTAINLY GOTTEN NICER SINCE I--
I WAS A FOOL.
NOTE: WE SAW THIS SCENE TAKE PLACE IN THE MEGA MAN VOL 2 GRAPHIC NOVEL -- SEE FOR YOURSELF! -- PLAN-AHEAD-ITOR


MY TIME IS ALMOST UP. I WON'T SPEND IT SULKING. I'LL FIND SOMEPLACE SUITABLE. MY LAST CHOICE...
LANFRONT RUINS-- TEMPLE OF THE MOON.
THE MYSTERIOUS SITE WAS ABANDONED AFTER IT WAS FOUND THAT ALL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT FAILED WITHIN RANGE OF THE RUINS. NO ONE HAS BEEN BACK THERE SINCE.
...AND IT WAS THREE YEARS AGO TODAY THAT THE U.N CALLED OFF THE INVESTIGATION OF THE LANFRONT RUINS.
HEH HEH HEH! YOU JUST KEEP THINKING THAT.
A MACHINE GRAVEYARD REMOVED FROM MAN? SEEMS FITTING. IT WILL BE PEACEFUL THERE. NO ONE TO TROUBLE ME. NO ONE TO TROUBLE MYSELF WITH.
"SLEEP" FOR HOURS, STILL NOT ENOUGH POWER.
NO. I MADE IT THIS FAR. I WILL MAKE IT.

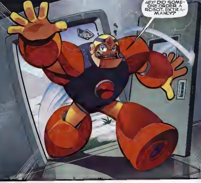

MADE THE CHOICE TO LEAVE. I DID. MADE THE CHOICE TO TRAVEL. I DID. MADE MY CHOICE TO DIE HERE. I WILL.
MADE MY CHOICE TO LIVE AS I WANTED.
I DID.

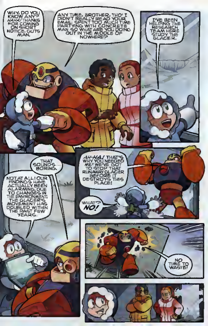

THAT'S IT! WAKEY-WAKEY! TIME TO RISE, SHINE, AND SHOW SOME GRATITUDE...
FOR MY TIMELY RESCUE!
DOCTOR ...DOCTOR... WILY?
YOU DO REMEMBER ME!
HOW NICE.
BLUES'S JOURNEY IS COMPLETE--*FOR NOW!* COME BACK *NEXT* WHEN DISASTER STRIKES, AND THE *FIRST ROBOT* ON THE SCENE IS... *ROLL!?!*

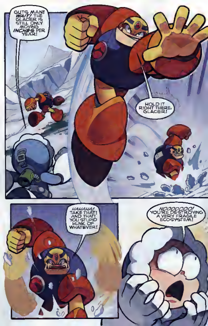

WE APPRECIATE ALL YOUR HELP LATELY, ICE MAN, BUT WE CAN GET A CONTRACTOR TO HANDLE THE EXPANSIONS TO THE RESEARCH CENTER.
NONSENSE! I KNOW JUST THE GUY, AND HE SHOULD BE HERE ANY MINUTE.

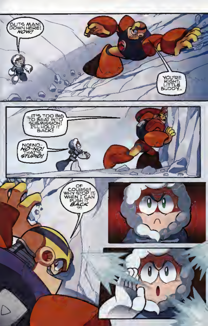
COLD FEAT

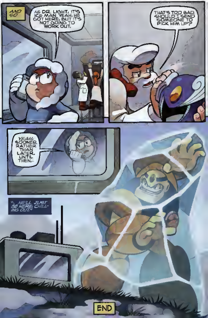
WRITER: IAN FLYNN · PENCILS: JAMAL PEPPERS · INKS: GARY MARTIN
COLORS: MATT HERMS · LETTERS: JOHN WORKMAN
SPECIAL THANKS TO BRIAN OLIVEIRA
AT CAPCOM LICENSING AND TO [illegible]


HEY! DID SOMEONE ORDER A ROBOT, EXTRA-MANLY?


WHY, DO YOU KNOW ANY? *HAHA!* THANKS FOR COMING ON SHORT NOTICE, GUTS MAN.
ANY TIME, BROTHER, THO' I DIDN'T REALLY READ YOUR EMAIL. SPENT TOO MUCH TIME PARTYING WITH CONCRETE MAN SO WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE?
I'VE BEEN HELPING THE RESEARCH TEAM HERE STUDY THE GLACIER.
THAT SOUNDS BORING.
NOT AT ALL! OUR FINDINGS HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN ALARMING. DUE TO CHANGES IN THE ENVIRONMENT, THE GLACIER'S MOVEMENT HAS DOUBLED WITHIN THE PAST FEW YEARS.
AH-HA! THAT'S WHY YOU NEEDED ME! WE'VE GOT TO STOP THAT RUNAWAY GLACIER BEFORE IT DESTROYS THIS PLACE!
WHAT? ***NO!***
NO TIME TO WASTE!


GUTS MAN! *WAIT!* THE GLACIER IS STILL ONLY MOVING *INCHES* PER YEAR!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, GLACIER!
HAHAHA! TAKE THAT! AND THAT! YOU STUPID HUNK OF WHATEVER!
NOOOOOOO! YOU'RE DESTROYING A VERY FRAGILE ECOSYSTEM!


GUTS MAN! DOWN HERE! *NOW!*
YOU'RE RIGHT, LITTLE BUDDY.
...IT'S TOO BIG TO BEAT INTO SUBMISSION! I'LL HOLD IT BACK!
NO! NO- *NO-NO!* THAT'S *STUPID!*
OF COURSE! WHY STOP IT WHEN I CAN PUSH IT *BACK* ?!


AND SO
HI, DR. LIGHT, IT'S ICE MAN. YEAH, HE GOT HERE, BUT IT'S NOT GOING TO WORK OUT.
THAT'S TOO BAD. SHOULD I SEND SOMEONE TO PICK HIM UP?
YEAH, SOONER RATHER THAN LATER. UNTIL THEN...
"...HE'LL JUST BE HERE, CHILLING OUT."
END

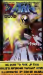
NEXT ISSUE
ROLL WITH IT

ROCK ON

EDITORIAL COLUMN

THE SAGA OF PROTO MAN IS FAR FROM OVER!

Now that Blues/Break Man is back and in the clutches of Dr. Wily's influence, it's only a matter of time before he and Mega Man finally square off! And I assure you, that battle is coming!



BE SURE TO PICK UP THIS ISSUE'S AWESOME VARIANT COVER ILLUSTRATED BY EISNER AWARD WINNING ARTIST MIKE NORTON AVAILABLE ONLY AT YOUR LOCAL COMIC SHOP!

ENJOY A PREVIEW PENCIL PAGE BY RYAN JAMPOLE FROM MEGA MAN #19'S "ROLL WITH IT" STORY!

In the meantime we've got a lot of cool surprises in store for all the mega-fans out there in mega-land. Including a series of stand-alone stories that will continue to flesh-out the Mega Man comic universe and explore the characters established in the last 18 issues. We'll have spotlights on characters like Roll, Splash Woman, Tempo, Oil Man, Agents Krantz and Stern, Xander Payne, and a few that are too spoiler-ific to even tell you about yet! All of which culminates in our big Spring crossover event, which I'll tell you about more as it comes.

So all right, mega-peoples, and don't forget to spread the good word about the Mega Man series to a friend!

Can't wait until y'all see what we've got in store for you!

Catch ya next time!

PAUL

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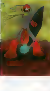
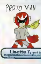


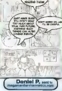
Joshua R. sent to megaman@archiecomics.com



Lisette T. sent to megaman@archiecomics.com

Robert O sent to megaman@archiecomics.com

FAN FUNNIES!


THESE ARCHIE MEGAMAN COMICS ARE AWESOME! I CAN'T STOP READING THEM!
JUST MAKE SURE YOU DON'T READ TOO MUCH ABOUT YOUR OWN FUTURE. KNOWING SUCH THINGS CAN ALTER COMING EVENTS.
DON'T WORRY DR. LIGHT I'LL BE CAREFUL.

Daniel P. sent to megaman@archiecomics.com

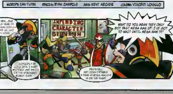
SEND IN YOUR FAN ART ONLINE TO- MEGAMAN@ ARCHIECOMICS.COM OR SNAIL MAIL TO:

C/O ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC P O BOX #419 MAMARONECK, NY 10543-0419

[illegible]

- SHORT CIRCUITS -

SCRIPT: IAN FLYNN PENCILS: RYAN JAMPOLE INKS: KENT ARCHER COLORS: VINCENT LOVALLO


YEH YEH... ONE WHOLE YEAR OF MEGA MAN COMICS ... AND THEN ...
IMPENDING CHARACTER BREAKROOM
WHAT DO YOU MEAN THEY ONLY GOT PAST MEGA MAN 2?! I'VE GOT TO WAIT UNTIL MEGA MAN 7?!
PROBABLY... GET COMFORTABLE. E-TANK VENDING MACHINE IS ON THE RIGHT.

MEGA-MAIL

WRITE TO US @ MEGA-MAIL c/o ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC.
P.O. BOX # 0410 MAMARONECK, NY 10543-0410 E-MAIL: MEGAMAN@ARCHIECOMICS.COM

Dear Mega-Mail,
I'm just going to start off plain and simple. I absolutely love the comic adaption of the Mega Man series!

And I absolutely LOVE this letter!

I just finished reading issue # 12 (I know I'm kinda behind) and I thought it was awesome! I picked up issues 9 - 12 and finished reading them in a matter of like 30 minutes. Also, the part where Mega Man battled Flash Man was just funny. I laughed when he said "so much hair" "so hard lol!

Dr. Wily is a sick man to inflict baldness onto one of his robots! Good thing we've got Mega Man around to deal out some justice!

I'll just get on with the question, since that's why I'm writing! Will all the Mega Man robot masters be appearing throughout the series? I would love to see them all, especially the ones from Mega Man 3. (Snake Man and Gemini Man forever, dude.)

Insanely talented writer and all-around good guy Ian Flynn has plans to introduce all the Robot Masters into the comic series, yes! And the best way to catch all those appearances? Why subscribe to the comic, of course! Or head on down to your nearest retailer or local comic shop (dial 1-888-comic-book to find a shop nearest you) and "DEMAND YOUR MEGA MAN!"

Well, that's it for now. I hope you reply to them! Live on, Blue Bomber!

Sincerely,
Kira S.
sent to megaman@archiecomics.com

Thanks for writing in, Kira!

Dear Mega-Mail,
I've been a mega fan for so many years now and even though I found out about the comic late I'm definitely caught up. Amazing all ages comic great art! I guess my very first fan letter to mega mail wasn't printed, so I thought I'd send this to show my appreciation.

Appreciation received and appreciated right back atcha!

Just maybe one suggestion -- creating story arcs longer than 4 issues? I know that's what people were saying before in the mail, and I think it would make the story arcs even better.

We'll have a variety of different story lengths over the next year from one-shots to 12 part epics!

Keep up the great work!

John L.
Canada

Thanks for the letter, John!

Dear Mega-Mail,
I am 21 years old and have been a Mega Man fan since I was little. The games have always been about good ol' action, thrills, and pleasing the demands of the fans. Your comic not only meets this criteria, but surpasses what anybody could have hoped for. As a huge and faithful fan, I could not see anybody else doing as well of a job as you guys. Your faithfulness to the series, writing, incredible art, easter eggs and playful jabs at oddities from the games have charged up my love for the Blue Bomber even more.

Thanks, we'll keep bringing on the awesome!

I recently ordered and read issues #1-12. It's a ton of awesomeness in one sitting! I am more than pleased with what you have done with my all-time favorite video game franchise. Your attention to detail and respect for the fans are second to none. Thank you so much for publishing this comic!

Sincerely,
Dylan Strohl

You are quite welcome! Thank you for reading Dylan-- as we enter Mega Man's 25th Anniversary year you'll be seeing a lot of variety from this title and we think you're gonna love what we've got in store for ya. (hint -- that Ra Moon business in the Amazon Jungle? Yea, you ain't seen NOTHIN yet!)

That's all for this month, see everyone back here for Roll to take the spotlight in "Roll with It!" in the very next issue! Same Mega-time, same Mega-comic!

NEXT ISSUE:19

ROLL WITH IT

MOVE OVER
MEGA MAN,
BECAUSE THE GIRLS HAVE GOT THIS ONE COVERED! THERE'S A STORM BREWING ON THE HIGH SEAS. CAN ROLL AND THE GIRLS SAVE THE DAY?

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